

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-6 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7 and 8 are amended herewith to better describe the optional input devices connected to the general input section, the optional output devices connected to the general output section, and second devices connected to each control unit. General support for these changes appears at page 25, line 17-page 26, line 3, and in FIG 5, for example, where the input unit 62 is part of the temperature setting thermostat 33 as noted at page 10, lines 17-20, for example.

The outstanding Action presents a rejection of Claim 8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and a rejection of Claim 7 as being anticipated by Shyu (U.S. Patent No. 5,259,553) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection of Claim 8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is based on the previous recitations of “optional devices,” “first devices,” “second devices,” and “the devices” that the outstanding Action asserted were “without any clear relationship to each other or the devices recited in the parent claim.” In order to first clarify matters as to the various devices, parent Claim 7 has been amended to make it clear that any optional device connected to the general input section is referred to in Claims 7 and 8 as an “optional input device,” while any optional device connected to the general output section is referred to as an “optional output device.” Accordingly, the Claim 8 recital of a “first devices connected to the general output section” has been amended to read “any optional output devices connected to the general output section.” Similarly, the Claim 8 recital of “the devices connected to the general input section” has been amended to recite “any input optional input devices connected to the general input section.” In addition, it is noted that the Claim 8 recital of the

control of "second devices" connected to each control unit is with regard to devices other than the "optional input devices" and "optional output devices" noted above as should be clear from the description of "second devices connected to the controller 32" appearing at page 25, line 35, of the specification, for example.

Accordingly, the present amendments to Claims 7 and 8 to clarify the nature of the different recited devices is believed to be sufficient to overcome the rejection of Claim 8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. If the Examiner disagrees or finds other language in either Claim 7 or Claim 8 to be objectionable, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below noted telephone number so that mutually agreeable language can be determined.

Before considering the prior art rejection applied to Claim 7, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of this claim would be helpful. In this regard, Claim 7 subject matter is concerned with a facility control system that includes control units that each control an air conditioner and at least one output optional device. These control units themselves include a general input section to which at least one optional input device is connected and a general output section to which at least one optional output device is connected, a memory storing a plurality of control patterns, and a temperature setting device that has a setting element for setting control patterns that will control the at least one optional output device from among the plurality of stored control patterns. The setting of the control patterns is done in accordance with at least one of the optional input and output devices connected to the general input and general output sections. This arrangement and setting of the control patterns being set by the setting element of the temperature setting device enable addition, removal and remodeling of the at least one input optional device and the at least one output optional general device, where the at least one optional output device including at least one of a sterilization lamp or an extractor fan.

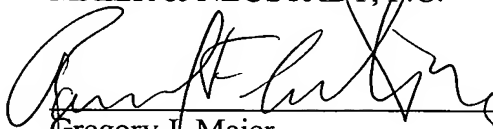
Turning to the rejection of Claim 7 as being anticipated by Shyu, it is noted that this reference only teaches a facility control system that has a general output section 4, a memory 35 for storing a plurality of control patterns for controlling device 5, and a control pattern selection device 31. There is no teaching or suggestion in Shyu of the arrangement of Amended Claim 7 that permits the recited optional output devices (including at least a sterilization lamp and extractor fan) connected to a general output section to be controlled based upon control patterns set by operation of an element on a temperature setting device that are selected from stored control patterns. Also missing from Shyu is any teaching or suggestion of the control patterns being set by the setting element of the temperature setting device enabling addition, removal and remodeling of any input optional device or any output optional general device.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 7 as being anticipated by Shyu is traversed and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted to be in order.

As no further issues are believed to remain outstanding in the present application, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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